

certain cooperative agreements between United States air carriers and non-United States air carriers (referred to in this section as “alliances”) that—

(1) have been created pursuant to section 41309 of title 49, United States Code; and

(2) have been exempted from antitrust laws (as defined in the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12)) pursuant to section 41308 of title 49, United States Code.

(b) SCOPE.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall assess—

(1) the public benefits to consumers of alliances and the consequences of alliances, if any, to competition, pricing, and new entry into markets served by alliances;

(2) the representations made by air carriers to the Secretary of Transportation for the necessity of an antitrust exemption;

(3) the Department of Transportation’s expectations of public benefits resulting from alliances, including whether such expected benefits were actually achieved;

(4) the Department of Transportation’s role in the approval and monitoring of alliances;

(5) whether there has been sufficient transparency in the approval of alliances, including opportunities for public review and feedback;

(6) the role of the Department of Justice in the oversight of alliances;

(7) whether there are alternatives to antitrust immunity that could be conferred that would also produce public benefits; and

(8) the level of competition between alliances.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SA 3683. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3464 submitted by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) to the bill H.R. 636, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4118. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NEXT GENERATION AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Next Generation Air Transportation System (known as “NextGen”) could, if properly implemented, provide much needed modernization of air traffic technologies to meet the future needs of the national air-space;

(2) once fully implemented, advancements from implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System could result in billions of dollars of economic benefits to air carriers and the travel industry;

(3) the Next Generation Air Transportation System has the potential to improve air traffic management by—

(A) improving weather forecasting;

(B) enhancing safety;

(C) creating more flexible spacing and sequencing of aircraft;

(D) reducing air traffic separation; and

(E) reducing congestion;

(4) improvements to air traffic management through the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System will provide benefits—

(A) to the flying public, such as reduced delays, reduced wait times, more direct

flights, and an overall enhanced flying experience; and

(B) to commercial air carriers, such as fuel cost savings, lower operational costs, and improved customer satisfaction; and

(5) fully and swiftly implementing the Next Generation Air Transportation System should remain a top priority for the United States to maximize the efficiency of the air-space system of the United States, maintain a competitive advantage, and remain a global leader in aviation.

SA 3684. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. TILLIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2133, to improve Federal agency financial and administrative controls and procedures to assess and mitigate fraud risks, and to improve Federal agencies’ development and use of data analytics for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments; as follows:

On page 5, line 24, strike “and” at the end.

On page 5, line 25, strike the period and insert “; and”.

On page 5, after line 25, add the following:

(3) any other party determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, which may include the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Procurement Officer, or the Chief Operating Officer of each agency.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Cybersecurity and Protecting Taxpayer Information.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Spread of ISIS and Transitional Terrorism.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 12, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Build-

ing to conduct a hearing entitled “ESSA Implementation in States and School Districts: Perspectives from the U.S. Secretary of Education.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “FEMA: Assessing Progress, Performance, and Preparedness.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Improving the USAJOBS Website.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environmental and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-

406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "American Small Businesses Perspective on Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Actions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FRAUD REDUCTION AND DATA ANALYTICS ACT of 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 391, S. 2133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2133) to improve Federal agency financial and administrative controls and procedures to assess and mitigate fraud risks, and to improve Federal agencies' development and use of data analytics for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Carper-Tillis amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3684) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 5, line 24, strike "and" at the end.
On page 5, line 25, strike the period and insert "; and".

On page 5, after line 25, add the following:

(3) any other party determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, which may include the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Procurement Officer, or the Chief Operating Officer of each agency.

The bill (S. 2133), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2133

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term "improper payment" has the meaning given the term in section 2(g) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note).

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS RELATING TO FRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENTS.

(a) GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall establish guidelines for agencies to establish financial and administrative controls to identify and assess fraud risks and design and implement control activities in order to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud, including improper payments.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidelines described in paragraph (1) shall incorporate the leading practices identified in the report published by the Government Accountability Office on July 28, 2015, entitled "Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs".

(3) MODIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, may periodically modify the guidelines described in paragraph (1) as the Director and Comptroller General may determine necessary.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTROLS.—The financial and administrative controls required to be established by agencies under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) conducting an evaluation of fraud risks and using a risk-based approach to design and implement financial and administrative control activities to mitigate identified fraud risks;

(2) collecting and analyzing data from reporting mechanisms on detected fraud to monitor fraud trends and using that data and information to continuously improve fraud prevention controls; and

(3) using the results of monitoring, evaluation, audits, and investigations to improve fraud prevention, detection, and response.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), for each of the first 3 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall submit to Congress, as part of the annual financial report of the agency, a report on the progress of the agency in—

(A) implementing—

(i) the financial and administrative controls required to be established under subsection (a);

(ii) the fraud risk principle in the Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government; and

(iii) Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123 with respect to the leading practices for managing fraud risk;

(B) identifying risks and vulnerabilities to fraud, including with respect to payroll, beneficiary payments, grants, large contracts, and purchase and travel cards; and

(C) establishing strategies, procedures, and other steps to curb fraud.

(2) FIRST REPORT.—If the date of enactment of this Act is less than 180 days before the date on which an agency is required to submit the annual financial report of the agency, the agency may submit the report required under paragraph (1) as part of the following annual financial report of the agency.

SEC. 4. WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Management and Budget shall establish a working group to improve—

(1) the sharing of financial and administrative controls established under section 3(a) and other best practices and techniques for detecting, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments; and

(2) the sharing and development of data analytics techniques.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The working group established under subsection (a) shall be composed of—

(1) the Controller of the Office of Management and Budget, who shall serve as Chairperson;

(2) the Chief Financial Officer of each agency; and

(3) any other party determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, which may include the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Procurement Officer, or the Chief Operating Officer of each agency.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The working group established under subsection (a) shall consult with Offices of Inspectors General and Federal and non-Federal experts on fraud risk assessments, financial controls, and other relevant matters.

(d) MEETINGS.—The working group established under subsection (a) shall hold not fewer than 4 meetings per year.

(e) PLAN.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group established under subsection (a) shall submit to Congress a plan for the establishment and use of a Federal interagency library of data analytics and data sets, which can incorporate or improve upon existing Federal resources and capacities, for use by agencies and Offices of Inspectors General to facilitate the detection, prevention, and recovery of fraud, including improper payments.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 636.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.